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diphtheria, 6 cases, 4 deaths; dysentery, 2 cases, 1 death. No further cases of plague have been reported. During the recent outbreak of pest in this vicinity there occurred in Kanagawa Ken, 8 cases, with 5 deaths. Seven of the above cases, 4 fatal, occurred within the city of Yokohama. The cholera situation in the Empire generally shows marked amelioration. Press reports of even date state that but 17 cases now exist in the whole of Japan (probably excluding Formosa).

Preventive inoculation against cholera.

NAGASAKI, JAPAN, November 27, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a brief résumé of the system of preventive inoculation followed by the Japanese sanitary authorities, during the epidemic of cholera at this port, from July last up to the present time, when only 1 death has been reported during the past ten days. The governor of this prefecture, Mr. Arakawa, very kindly furnished to Mr. Harris, United States consul, the answers to a series of questions, as given below. In view of the morbidity in the previous epidemics which ran well into the thousands, it is only fair to assume with the comparatively small number of cases during this epidemic that inoculation, plus immediate isolation and disinfection of infected quarters, is worthy of extended trial against this malignant disease. Locally, within the above period, there have occurred 741 cases of suspected and true Asiatic cholera, with a mortality of 514, or just under 70 per cent.

1. Number of persons inoculated?—A. 21,334.
2. How many of this number afterwards contracted cholera?—A. 110, of whom 60 died, or 54.5 per cent.
3. How soon did death occur among those inoculated?—A. Average time, three days and twenty hours.
4. What method was used?—A. Of the serum prepared according to Cowles, 1 c. c. was injected by means of a Pravaz syringe; usually in the region of the left shoulder. In the majority of cases but one injection was made, though it is believed that two or three would prove more effectual.
5. What effect is noticed upon the temperature of the body after injecting?—A. Slight pain and fever are observed after inoculation, lasting from one to two day. In general the fever does not rise over 1 degree.

In addition to the inoculations, the quarantine station officials disinfected 40 vessels and 11,559 passengers and crew. The disinfection is done both by steam and formalin, according to the requirements of the case, and to the best of my recollection, no subsequent cases have developed after vessels have left port. The station is excellently fitted up with baths for cabin and steerage passengers, isolation wards, and a steam sterilizer for clothing and baggage. The doctors in attendance are most courteous and obliging. I could not ascertain how many days elapsed between the time of inoculation and the appearance of the disease among the 110 inoculated cases. In the words of the report "the serum displays the virtue of prevention from the sixth day after inoculation, but the strongest effect is noticed between the tenth and twentieth day." The meaning is slightly obscure.

Respectfully,

ROBERT I. BOWIE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.